



**NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
FORMER COOPER HAND TOOLS SITE
815 State Road, Cheraw South Carolina.**

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) announces a 30-day period for citizens to comment on a potential Voluntary Cleanup Contract for the Former Cooper Hand Tools Site. The contract, **VCC05-5582-NRP**, will be between “815 State LLC” and DHEC. The contract will allow “815 State LLC” to purchase the property as a Brownfields site, which may have environmental pollution resulting from past practices. “815 State LLC” did not create the pollution, but wishes to buy the property and voluntarily clean up it up for reuse. If this contract is implemented, DHEC will not hold “815 State LLC” liable under State Superfund laws for pre-existing contamination in exchange for performing work under the Voluntary Cleanup Program. If contamination has spread off of the property, State law will not allow affected parties to file suit against “815 State LLC” for the past operations; however, legal action may be pursued against any former owners or operators.

The Brownfields site being purchased by “815 State LLC” consists of 34.92 acres identified by tax map parcel # 258-10-01-004 and –005. The property has formerly been used as textile manufacturing facility and, most recently, by Cooper Industries as a manufacturing plant for soldering and electrical hand tools. During the course of manufacturing, chemicals spilled and leaked from several process areas. Environmental investigations on the property have found soil and groundwater contamination with metals and solvents.

“815 State LLC” intends to redevelop the property into an industrial supply distribution facility and make general improvements in the property. Due to the potential for environmental pollution at the site, “815 State LLC” wishes to enter into a contract under DHEC’s Voluntary Cleanup Program. Cooper Industries has also entered into a separate Voluntary Cleanup Contract to clean up the contamination under DHEC’s supervision. Since Cooper Industries will clean up the contamination, “815 State LLC” will not be responsible for doing environmental work on this property; however, they will contribute money to a State Fund that may be used for clean-up at other sites. Under the proposed contract, “815 State LLC” will also restrict future tenants from using any processes or chemicals that have contaminated the property. The proposed contract is available at <http://www.scdhec.gov/lwm/html/public.asp>. Printed copies may be obtained from the DHEC Freedom of Information Office at (803) 898-3882.

DHEC promotes redevelopment and revitalization of Brownfields sites across the state so that these properties do not become abandoned or unusable. Public comments on proposed Brownfields contracts assist DHEC in balancing the environmental and redevelopment issues to be in the best interest of the state. Any comments or questions may be directed to Craig Dukes, Brownfields Public Information Coordinator, SCDHEC – Bureau of Land and Waste Management, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201; email dukescv@dhec.sc.gov, TOLL-FREE telephone (866) 576-3432. Citizens may provide written, email, or telephone comments on the Former Cooper Hand Tools Site proposed contract until December 16, 2005.